

**CALIFORNIA INSPECTION & MAINTENANCE  
REVIEW COMMITTEE**

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May 5, 2005

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Rocky Carlisle,  
Executive Officer

The Honorable Cindy Montañez  
California State Assembly  
PO Box 942849  
Sacramento, California 94249-0001

Dear Assembly Member Montañez:

I am writing on behalf of the California Inspection and Maintenance Review Committee (Committee) about Assembly Bill 383. Your bill seeks to improve the current Consumer Assistance Program (CAP) by redefining low-income eligibility to 225% of the Federal Income Poverty level and applying a higher income qualification for motorists with vehicles directed to Test-Only stations. However, we are concerned about the Test-Only directed vehicle qualification for CAP.

Your staff has indicated that the rationale for providing CAP assistance to motorists with vehicles directed to Test-Only stems from the belief that it may be more difficult for motorists to comply with the Smog Check inspection when directed to a Test-Only station. The Committee recently completed a telephone survey of 566 randomly-selected motorists that failed the Smog Check inspection. The following are some of the results which we believe contradict the assumption that Test-Only direction causes a hardship for motorists:

1. Initial and Second Smog Check - There was no significant difference between Test-Only directed and other motorists in the ease with which they obtained both first and second Smog Checks. Overall, 5 percent of the motorists said it was very difficult to get the initial Smog Check, and another 11 percent said it was somewhat difficult. For the second Smog Check, 2.7 percent said it was somewhat difficult and 1.6 said it was very difficult to comply.
2. Finding a Test-Only Station - Only 6.4 percent responded that it was difficult or somewhat difficult to find a Test-Only station. [The Bay area response to the same question was 12 percent. This may be due to the fact that the Bay area was only recently enhanced which included the addition of the Test-Only inspection requirement.]
3. Vehicle Repairs - There was no significant difference between Test-Only directed motorists and others in the ease with which they obtained vehicle repairs. Overall 68 percent said it was easy and another 19 percent said it was somewhat easy to get their cars repaired.

We will send you a copy of the survey results when all analyses have been completed.

Eliminating the qualification for owners of vehicles directed to Test-Only stations ensures that those with adequate financial resources do not receive assistance from the Consumer Assistance Program. At the same time, income-eligible motorists are protected since any motorist qualifies for the income eligibility at the 225% level. Moreover, the Committee suggests that any CAP funds saved as a result of this amendment remain in Consumer Assistance Program since it is a vital component of California's Smog Check program.

If we can be of any assistance as this bill progresses through the Legislature, please contact our Executive Officer at (916) 322-8249. Thank you for your efforts to help clean the air and improve the environment for all Californians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victor Weisser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victor" and last name "Weisser" clearly distinguishable.

Victor Weisser  
Chairman